

## Quatuor Ardeo Programme 23/24

### 1. Lovestories

Beethoven: Opus 18-1

Mendelssohn: Opus 44-1

Janacek: 2. "Intimate Letters" (version for Viola d'Amore)

Would love save the world? It can certainly free hearts from social, political and cultural constraints. The beautiful second movement of Beethoven's Op. 18 n°1 is inspired by the tomb scene in William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The year 1838 was a particularly happy and productive one for Mendelssohn, corresponding with the birth of his first child. Janacek used the viola d'amore to embody the voice of his muse. Fascinated by this instrument with its special silvery tone created by the effect of sympathetic strings, he chose to play the viola part of his quartet on the viola d'amore.

We have chosen to perform this version to honour the composer's imagination.

### 2. The female Beethoven

#### **Emilie Mayer (1812-1883)**

String Quartet in g minor Opus 14

String Quartet in e minor

String Quartet in A (1856)

Emilie Mayer was one of the most prolific composers of the 19th century. She was one of the few women to compose symphonic music at that time. Eight symphonies, an opera, several overtures... and nine string quartets. On the occasion of the bicentenary of her birth in 2012, several quartets were published.

We have chosen three of them to pay tribute to this incredible woman, whom the critics of the time had even nicknamed 'The female Beethoven'.

### 3. The Birds

Haydn Opus 33-3 "The Bird"

Demenga Opus One for String Quartet (2015)

Winkelman "Papa Haydn's parrot" - Hommage à Haydn for String Quartet (2016)

A true entertainer of music, Haydn offers us motives of birds tweeting and singing throughout his 32nd string quartet. As a paraphrase of this charming piece, Swiss violinist and composer Helena Winkelman wrote an eight movement string quartet named "Papa Haydn's Parrot" in 2016. Thomas Demenga (another Swiss composer who is known as a cellist) starts his first string quartet with a scene of a morning in the forest, where the quartet imitates the voice of birds on our instruments...

### 4. The call of America

Adams: Excerpts from "John's book of Alleged Dance" (1994)

Hisaishi: Quartet n°1 (2014)

Bernstein / Gerigk: West Side Story

Dvorak: "American" quartet n°12, op. 96

John Adams, one of the greatest minimalist composer in America, wrote 10 "alleged" dances for string quartet and partly prepared piano.

Japanese composer, Joe Hisaishi (known for composing music for Miyasaki films) shows his passionate admiration to american minimal music with his compositions. Jérémie Rhorer wrote a piece called "Spectateur Nocturne" for string quartet, being inspired by walking around the city of New York.

Over one century before these composers of today, Anton Dvorak was probably the first composer to get in touch with the American spirit and native music while working in New York from 1892 to 1895.

The programs "**XII - Wo bist Du schöne Welt**" und "**Goldberg Variations**" are permanent available